(v) Adjournments are not ordinarily granted to the parties.

Railways losses and freight Hike

257. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd February, 2000 under the caption "Cash strapped Railways may target middle class again" to cover Railway losses and to increase internal generation of funds;

(b) if so, the projected/revised losses of Railways during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 indicating profit/losses from passengers and freight charges during the first three quarters of 1999-2000; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to avoid such hike in case of middle class passenger fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The projected/revised estimates of losses(—)/profit(+) of passenger and goods services for 1998-99 are as under:—

(Rupees in crores)

	Revised Estimates (1998-99)	Actual (1998-99)
Coaching Services	(—) 4542	(—) 4166
Goods	(+) 4911	(+) 4813

The estimated profit/losses for 1999-2000 are not available.

(c) Government revises the passenger fares from time to time to contain the losses made in coaching services.